Foreword

HOW THE REPORT IS ORGANIZED

Over the past decade, Houston has undergone significant economic and demographic changes. Central to this report are changes related to characteristics of households and the housing units in which they live. The report is organized to give the reader a broad understanding of Houston in relation to the nation, the state and the region, followed by a more in-depth picture of the makeup, and living conditions of Houston's households and families, pointing out concentrations of various characteristics and the changes between 1990 and 2000. This Foreword provides information on the structure and major topics of the report.

Chapter One: How We Compare compares Houston's statistics with the ten major cities in the U.S. and the State's largest cities.

Chapter Two: Population presents race, Hispanic origin, immigration characteristics, and language(s) spoken. **Chapter Three: Households** provides a breakdown of household type, marital status and presence of children. **Chapter Four: Income** discusses household income both as a whole and per capita, compared across race and Hispanic origin. Various specific categories of income are also enumerated, including public assistance, Social Security, and other retirement. **Chapter Five: Poverty** profiles in a more in-depth manner those households whose income places them below the poverty level by family type and age. **Chapter Six: Journey to Work** presents how workers in the households travel to their place of employment, including access

to a vehicle, time leaving, travel time, and mode of transport.

Chapter Seven: Housing summarizes about the age, tenure and amount spent as mortgage or rent. It includes total units, vacancy rate, year housing built, tenure and tenure by age and by race and Hispanic origin. Financial data on housing units include home value, rent paid, mortgage status, and housing costs (owner or renter) as a percentage of income, compared across race, age, and income level.

The **Appendices** include Glossary of Terms, How We Compare charts, Poverty data and Vacant Units and Median Rent by Super Neighborhoods.

How the Report was Prepared

The Housing and Households Report was prepared using demographic data obtained from the 1990 and 2000 U.S Census. Census information is collected every ten years. The 2000 US Census is the most recent data that is currently available for comparison. (For a more detailed explanation of terms, please see Appendix A: Glossary of Terms.)

Social and economic characteristics are basic building blocks for assessing conditions about a city at any given point in time. Demography is the study of the vital statistics of human populations such as size, growth, density and distribution. The counting of these statistics is undertaken nation-wide every 10 years through the United States Census. Not only is the data used for taxation and representation purposes but it is now a vital part of planning for social

services, infrastructure improvements, and other public and private ventures.

Scope and Methodology

The Houston Primary Statistical Area (PMSA), as defined by the Bureau of the Census, includes the six county region of Chambers, Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties. Harris County includes most land in Houston's city limits and portions of Houston's Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), as well as smaller incorporated cities and villages. The Houston City limits contains all land legally recognized within the city's jurisdiction for the purposes of taxation and regulatory authority. Within the City are contained the 88 Super Neighborhoods. These are the smallest areas of geography considered for this report. Maps produced for this document represent generalized patterns at Super neighborhood level for both household- and housing-unit-specific information.

Summary File 1 (SF1 Complete Count) Population and household totals vary from Summary File 3 (SF3 Sample data). The Housing report uses SF3 Sample data for its analysis.

Limitations of the data

For comparison purposes by Study Areas, the 1990 population characteristics were compiled under the City's boundaries as they exist in 2000. The resulting 1990 population numbers include the annexation of Kingwood and other areas. These annexations have increased the 1990 population (1,631,766) by approximately 70,000 people.

The City of Houston's 88 Super Neighborhoods were defined during the Brown administration and allow statistical presentation on a consistent basis for sub-city-sized areas. The geographic boundaries of each Super Neighborhood use major physical features (bayous, freeways, etc.) to group together smaller contiguous communities that share common physical characteristics, identity or infrastructure. The 2000 City boundaries have been used for aggregating Super Neighborhoods.

Incomes have not been adjusted for inflation. Household Median Incomes and Per Capita Incomes are averages by Super Neighborhoods.

"Other race" includes persons indicating a race other than White, Black, or Asian, as well as those indicating two or more races.

"Asian" population includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander categories.

Houston Housing and Households 2000 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
City of Houston Planning and Development Department, Long-Range Planning Division

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